

*House
Foreign
Operations*

15 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Agency Press Briefing

1. The undersigned met with Mr. Sam Archibald, Staff Director, House Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, concerning the questions posed informally by Mr. Archibald on 10 January 1964. Mr. Archibald's wife has been sick during the week and it was not possible to meet with him earlier.

2. Mr. Archibald was given a burn copy of the list of press representatives who attended and those invited who were unable to attend the press briefing of Thursday, 9 January. He was also given an additional copy of the paper "Soviet Economic Problems Multiply" with a covering 1/3 page carbon copy note indicating that previous briefings had been given to requestors on an informal, verbal basis and that the subject paper as such had not been prepared until after the appearance of the TIMES article.

3. In response to the questions posed in the previous meeting, Mr. Archibald was advised that the briefing was held in the United States Intelligence Board conference room at the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in McLean, Virginia, and lasted approximately an hour and ten minutes from 2:30 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. Specific invitations were issued in order to keep foreign press representatives from coming to the building. The briefing was conducted by Mr. Ray S. Cline, Deputy Director of Intelligence. Mr. Paul M. Chretien, Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence, was also identified to the group. Present but not identified were [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] to assist Mr. Cline on fielding questions on the Soviet economy. Since Mr. Archibald indicated at this point he was interested only in individuals who would have been identified to the press, Mr. Chester L. Cooper, who was also in attendance, was not identified. The point was made again that the first use of this economic information after an informal telephone

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briefing of a requestor was by [REDACTED] The NEW YORK TIMES was approximately the seventh requestor who called. Authorization for attribution of the economic data became attribution of a CIA spokesman in the TIMES article. For reasons of their own the TIMES made the information a front page feature. Mention was also made that the Soviet economy is one area of information where many releases have been made in past years. The DCI had even appeared in open session in November 1959 before the Joint Committee on Economics.

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4. Mr. Archibald thanked us for a complete response and indicated his feeling that we had resolved all of the questions which had been raised within the Committee family. He appeared to put quite some weight on the fact (not mentioned above) that the Director had reviewed this matter and has indicated that it will not be a practice of the Agency in the foreseeable future to hold press conferences regarding Agency papers or otherwise.

5. Mr. Archibald indicated that at most a letter might be forthcoming during the week from the Chairman on the question of change of Agency policy with regard to press briefings. Mr. Archibald's personal recommendation to the Chairman, however, will be against further consideration of the matter by the Committee.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

cc: Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Paul M. Chretien

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